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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JAN 14 1954

Control: 4233
Rec'd: January 13, 1954
10:57 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 199, January 13, 6 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 199; REPEATED SAN SALVADOR 3.

Trigueros, First Secretary of Salvadoran Embassy here, informed us today that in talk with Colonel Funes, Salvadoran Ambassador, yesterday President Arbenz said Guatemalan Government was threatened by attempted revolution led by Guatemalan exiles in Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua and "certain Guatemalan Army officers" and asked that President Osorio take steps to curb exiles' activities. Funes had replied that Guatemalan exiles in Salvador were few and inactive and did not receive any assistance from Salvadoran Government. He had then asked Arbenz if he would withdraw his government support from Salvadoran Communist exiles in Guatemala who were backed by official press and many of whom had government jobs. Arbenz had replied only that he could not resist freedom of press. Trigueros added that Miguelangel Asturias, Guatemalan Ambassador to Salvador, was present at interview and that he left for San Salvador today to seek audience with Osorio, presumably on same subject. Asturias planned to return to Guatemala and report to Arbenz immediately after seeing Osorio. It was Trigueros' opinion, with which I agree, that incident indicates extreme nervousness in high government circles here.

PUERIFOY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

613
DESP. NO.

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 19, 1954
DATE

REF:

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	AMA-4	DCR-2, OAI-6, L-CIA/R/A-1
	REC'D 1-22-	INFO OTHER CIA 7, USIA-10

SUBJECT: First Congress of the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca.

The First National Congress of the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca (PRG), meeting in Guatemala City on January 15-17, reaffirmed the party's pro-Communist orientation in the speeches and resolutions of the party's leaders and reelected Augusto CHARNAUD MacDonald, Minister of the Interior, as Secretary General with the firm backing of a Communist-line clique consisting of Abel CUENCA, Alfonso SOLORZANO, Manager of the Guatemalan Institute of Social Security, and Roberto ALVARADO Fuentes, Guatemalan Ambassador to Mexico.

The Congress, the first held since the PRG was formed in June, 1952, was adroitly organized by Abel Cuenca, the Salvadoran leader of the 1932 Communist uprising in El Salvador who now puts in long hours as the PRG's principal political organizer and is reputedly one of the most powerful behind-the-scenes figures in Guatemalan politics. In order that the Congress might run smoothly he adopted the Communist tactic of circulating draft statutes and resolutions to the subordinate organizations and presenting them with a "single slate" of candidates for party offices headed by Charnaud MacDonald as sole candidate for Secretary General. The new party statutes abolished the old Executive and Political Committees as the governing bodies of the party and substituted in this role a 31-member Central Committee, a term previously used in Guatemalan politics (so far as can be determined) by the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT), the country's Communist party. The statutes provided for a "single discipline under a single, centralized leadership."

With Cuenca's preparatory work, the Congress ran smoothly and the dissident, anti-Communist factor led by former Deputy Juan José ARÉVALO Bermejo was not heard. At the opening session on January 15, José Joaquín CASTILLA Manzo, Under Secretary of the Interior and a loyal political henchman of Charnaud MacDonald, was elected President of the Congress and a 13-member Presidium was elected. The only members on it who were not PRG leaders were Communists--José Manuel FORTUNY, the PGT's Secretary General who

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had returned from Moscow a few days previously, and Bernardo ALVARADO Monzón, the PGT's Secretary for Organization.

On the following day a claimed 470 delegates heard the report of Charnaud MacDonald as Secretary General. The highlights were his recommendations which closely paralleled the current Guatemalan Communist party line. Among them were a recommendation that the PRG express approval of the Arbenz Administration's rejection of anti-Communist resolutions in the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) and the Organization of American States (OAS); that it endorse the Administration's firm attitude toward the U.S. State Department's 1953 Aide Memoire about the United Fruit Company expropriations; that the party give a vote of sympathy and solidarity for "organizations which fight for world peace;" and that the PRG devote all of its activity during 1954 toward the completion of the Agrarian Reform. It will be recalled especially that the prompt implementation of the Agrarian Reform is also the major stated domestic objective of the Communist PGT.

Beside the ideological harmony of Charnaud MacDonald's and the Communist objectives, his speech reflected some organizational friction between the PRG, on the one hand, and the Communist PGT and the leftist Partido Acción Revolucionaria (PAR) on the other. Without mentioning by name the PGT, which is dominant in the Agrarian Reform machinery, he asked for an end to "sectarianism" in the Agrarian Reform. He also implied that the PAR should be allowed more influence in the Confederación Nacional Campesina de Guatemala (CNCG), the peasant organization he organized some years ago but which has drifted away from him toward the PAR and PGT; he said that the independent campesinos composed the rural petit bourgeoisie and should be under the petit bourgeois, while hired agricultural workers and landless campesinos were the rural proletariat and should be under the working class organizations, i.e. the PGT and CGTG. Delegates from the provinces strongly attacked the PAR, accusing it of stealing elections from the PGT. The Congress thus revealed a strong under-current of continued rivalry and jealousy over political spoils between the Administration parties.

The PGT Congress, in addition to approving the new party statutes, unanimously adopted a resolution proposed by Roberto Alvarado Fuentes to send a cable to ex-President Juan José ARÉVALO, now Guatemalan Ambassador-At-Large, expressing the hope that he could preside over the Guatemalan delegation to the Caracas Conference if Guatemala decides to attend. Another motion adopted resolved to "protest energetically against the so-called Military Assistance Pact between Nicaragua and the United States of America; to denounce the new occupation of Nicaraguan territory by North American military forces; and to point to these facts as focal points disturbing the peace of Central America....."

On the final day, the Congress elected the new Central Committee, entering with only one minor change the "single slate" with Chairman MacDonald as Secretary General. The new Committee includes Roberto Alvarado Fuentes, Abel Cuenca, Alfonso Solorzano, and Ernesto CAPUANO del Vecchio, whose devotion to the Communist ideology is well known, as well as Alfonso BAUER Pais, the ultra-nationalistic Manager of the National Agrarian Bank who was in 1953 appointed government representative in charge of the operations of the U.S.-owned Empresa Electrica and IRCA Railroad when the government moved to restore service during strikes. A list of the new Central Committee is enclosed.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure - 1

PARTIDO DE LA REVOLUCION GUATEMALTECO

Central Committee
(Elected January 17, 1954)

Secretary General - Augusto CHARNAUD MacDonald

Roberto ALVARADO Fuentes
Alfonso PAUL Paiz
Nicolás PAUL Galicia
Obdulio CABRERA
Ernesto CAPUANO del Vecchio
Abel CUEVA
Miguel GARCIA Granados
Carlos GARCIA Manzo
Joaquín GARCIA Manzo
Edmundo LOPEZ Durán
Rodolio LOPEZ Retana
Antonio MONROY
Mario MORALES Vielman
Héctor MORGAN Garcia
Alfonso ORANTES
Angel PAIZ
Federico Guillermo PALMIERI
Mariano RIVAS
Joaquín RIVERA Kunze
Julio RIVERA Sierra
Heriberto ROBLES Alvarado
Abraham SALAZAR Serrano
Eduardo SELVA
Alejandro SILVA Falla
José Francisco SILVA Falla
Alfonso SOLORZANO
Rodrigo TRANCAY
Maria del Carmen Vargas de AMEZQUITA
Manuel Francisco VILLAMAR Contreras
Marco Antonio VILLAMAN Contreras